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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/719,958	11/21/2003	Wilhelm Schulten	2002P06704US	3578

7590 06/16/2005

Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, NJ 08830

EXAMINER

CASAREGOLA, LOUIS J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3746

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/719,958	SCHULTEN, WILHELM	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Louis J. Casaregola	3746	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,11-15,17-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4-10,12,16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Objections To Claims

Claim 12 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(a) for the following reason:

The expression, "wherein the sub-components **abutting** each other", is grammatically awkward. The cited expression should be amended to read, "wherein the subcomponents **abut** each other".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 11-14, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by either Reider or Putz (German Specification 198 09 568).

The claimed gas turbine and combustion apparatus reads on conventional gas turbine systems of the type shown in either of the cited references. Attention is called Reider's Figure 1, which show an annular combustor along with standard gas turbine components including compressor 12 and turbine (airfoil section) 19. The combustor comprises an outer wall 10 and inner wall(s) 30 and/or 32, and the inner walls further comprise a plurality of wall elements 126. As best shown in Figure 4, inner wall elements 126 are supported by subcomponents 62, 64, etc. abutting along joints 80, and at least some of the joints can be construed as horizontal. The subcomponents are attached to each other via screw connectors 72,. Furthermore, since inner wall

elements 126 as well as the inner walls themselves define curved surfaces, screw connectors 72 form angles relative to the inner walls with respect to almost all points on the walls' surfaces. With regard to claim 17, it is additionally pointed out that fuel orifices 202 (Fig. 2) read on the recited plurality of fuel burners.

Attention is additionally called to Putz's Figure 1, which shows a further annular combustor including outer wall 2, inner wall 13, and support components 19-22. The support components abut along horizontal joints and are attached to each other by screw connectors 24. The screw connectors can be construed as forming angles relative to the inner wall surfaces for the same reasons discussed above in conjunction with the Reider patent. It is additionally pointed out that since Putz's apparatus is specifically disclosed as a gas turbine combustor, his disclosure implicitly includes essential gas turbine components such as a compressor, turbine, etc. With regard to claim 17, attention is further called to fuel burners 39 and 40 in Putz's Figure 3.

Claims 3 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Putz as discussed above and with further comment.

Note that Putz's outer combustor wall 2 comprises two parts, an upper part and a lower part.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 4-10 and 16 contain allowable subject matter but are objected to as

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depending from rejected parent claims. If rewritten in independent form, these claims will be allowed.

Additional References

Becker is cited as disclosing a further pertinent example of combustor wall support structure employing screw fasteners.

L. J. Casaregola
571-272-4826 (M-F; 7:30-4:00)
703-872-9306 FAX
June 14, 2005


LOUIS J. CASAREGOLA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

If repeated attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the art unit supervisor, Timothy Thorpe, can be reached at 571-272-4444.

Information regarding the status of this application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR, and status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).